

at age 13 to escape violence and find new opportunities. Together, they built a life in Washington, DC, through hard work, courage, and the determination to succeed. By means of her own grit and skill, along with the support of a loving mother, Ms. Gomez obtained a bachelor of science in nursing from Georgetown University and a master of public health from the University of California at Berkeley. Following graduation, she returned to the District of Columbia to empower the very same community that had empowered her when she first arrived in the United States.

After first working at DC Health, the Red Cross, and the Visiting Nurses Association, Ms. Gomez founded Mary's Center with a group of health advocates and the DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. Her goal was to help immigrant women fleeing war and poverty in Central America. But what began as the shared vision of one person and a small group of community and government partners would soon grow into a nationally renowned health center that has touched the lives of thousands.

Under Ms. Gomez's leadership, Mary's Center went from serving 200 participants in a small basement with a budget of \$250,000 to serving more than 60,000 participants across seven locations in DC and Maryland, with an annual budget of \$76 million in just over 30 years. The center and the people who work there are committed to providing the highest quality of care to each and every patient, regardless of their ability to pay, and the mission of Mary's Center is guided by core principles of care, education, social justice, and respect. I have had the privilege of visiting Mary's Center locations in my State of Maryland while serving in the Senate, and I have witnessed, firsthand, the extraordinary attention, compassion and professionalism that the entire Mary's Center family brings to everything they do. It is because of their work that so many within our communities can receive support and critical services.

That is Maria Gomez's legacy, and our State and our Nation are deeply grateful for all she has given to our fellow citizens in need. Her extraordinary achievements have made Ms. Gomez one of the most effective and highly regarded leaders in the region and throughout the country. It was Ms. Gomez's hard work and dedication that led First Lady Michelle Obama to choose Mary's Center for her first official visit to a nonprofit organization in February 2009. In 1995, First Lady Hillary Clinton also visited Mary's Center during National Immunization Week in recognition of the center's efforts to get children vaccinated and ready to learn and thrive in school. What is more, President Barack Obama selected Maria Gomez as one of the 18 recipients of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal, the Nation's second-highest civilian honor, as a testament to her leadership and service.

Ms. Gomez has accrued decades of wisdom over the course of her distinguished career, and she has always been willing to share that wisdom and knowledge with those who seek it. DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, as well as former Mayors Vincent Gray and Adrian Fenty, named her to their mayoral transition teams. She currently serves as cochair of the Human Services, Social Services, and Health Committee of the DC Mayor's ReOpen DC Advisory Group for COVID-19, and she is a member of the Mayor's Commission on Healthcare Systems Transformations, which makes recommendations on strategies and investments necessary to transform healthcare in the District of Columbia.

Ms. Gomez also shares her expertise by serving as a board member for the DC Primary Care Association and the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County. She is a member of the Suburban Hospital Board of Trustees, is co-chair of the Latino Health Steering Committee of Montgomery County, and serves on the advisory boards for the Smithsonian American Women History Initiative, the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, and the AmeriHealth Caritas National FQHC Initiative. In addition, she is a member of the Washington Housing Conservancy—WHC—Board.

While Ms. Gomez is the recipient of numerous well-earned awards and accolades, no medal or trophy that we can give to her can truly speak to all that she has given us throughout her inspiring life and career. She has been a beacon of hope for so many families in need over the past three decades. She leaves behind a legacy of deep compassion for all whom she has met and known and helped and served. Ms. Gomez's colleagues regard her as a strong leader, a dedicated mentor, and a friend to all, and the entire Mary's Center community treasures the warmth, grace, and respect she has imparted throughout the organization these past 33 years.

Our Nation's Capital is healthier and stronger because of Maria Gomez's many years of visionary leadership and dedicated service. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to her and in extending our best wishes to her and to her husband Michael Rexrode and daughter Amalia—as she begins the next chapter of her life of service to her community and her country.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2833. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2834. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2835. A communication from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2836. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2021, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2837. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2838. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2839. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2840. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors" (RIN1235-AA41) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2841. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2842. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-238, "Sense of the Council Medicare for All Support Resolution of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2843. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President's Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of locality based comparability payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2844. A communication from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2845. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2846. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2847. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2848. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2849. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Reports from the Treasury Inspector General and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for the period from April 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2850. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2851. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021 received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2852. A communication from the Director of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2853. A joint communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Annual Report for fiscal year 2021 received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2854. A communication from the Register of Copyrights and Director, United States Copyright Office, Library of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of adjustments to certain timing provisions of the Copyright Act for persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2855. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Awards Under the Nehmer Court Orders for Disability or Death Caused by a Condition Presumptively Associated with Herbicide Exposure; Implementing Court Order" (RIN2900-AR40) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2856. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Release of Information from Department of Veterans Affairs' Records" (RIN2900-AR39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2857. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Kosakonia cowanii strain SYM00028; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9216-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2858. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichoderma harzianum strain T-78; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9218-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2859. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Biofuel Producer Program for Fiscal Year 2021" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2860. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2861. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management Directive 12.6, NRC Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Program" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2862. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; 2015 Ozone NAAQS Interstate Transport Requirements" (FRL No. 8967-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2863. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-2.5e)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 7842-02-OCSP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2864. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the

Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021-0146 - 2021-0153); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2865. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of International Agreements other than Treaties entered into with Taiwan by the American Institute in Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2866. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Assistance Provided to Foreign Aviation Authorities for FY 2020"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2867. A communication from the Deputy Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018" ((FCC 21-119) (Docket Nos. WC18-336)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2868. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Commission Review of State Opt-Out Requests from the FirstNet radio Access Network" ((FCC 19-155) (PS Docket No. 16-269)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-99. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to take action to mitigate the depletion of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 157

Whereas, Social Security benefits are paid to more than 65 million Americans, including some who use the financial resource to stay out of poverty. Approximately 21.7 million Americans would have been in poverty in 2020 without Social Security benefits. Vulnerable individuals, including the aging population and people with disabilities, depend on Social Security to supplement other forms of income. The Social Security Administration reports that Social Security benefits account for at least one-third of the income of the elderly; and

Whereas, Medicare helps pay medical costs for over 57 million individuals per year on average. Medicare allows for individuals to receive medical care and prescription drugs that they otherwise may not be able to afford. Many people enrolled in Medicare live with health problems and almost half of enrollees have incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Estimates showed that 19 percent of Medicare beneficiaries had no other form of supplemental insurance in 2016; and

Whereas, Projections in Social Security and Medicare trustees reports estimate that Social Security will only be able to pay 78 percent of scheduled benefits by 2034, and